

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 294310
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RCGRAHAM:RC
APPROVED BY ARA:FMCNEIL
ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN
ARA: GLISTER (DRAFT)
S/S-O :JETHYDEN

-----125267 091807Z /42

O 091742Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 294310

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR PEZZULLO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ROBERT GOLDMAN ON PROPOSED HUMAN
RIGHTS VISIT
REF: MONTEVIDEO 5653

1. ARA OFFICIALS ZIMMERMANN, LISTER, AND GRAHAM MET WITH
ROBERT GOLDMAN ON DECEMBER 8. IN A FRANK AND CANDID
CONVERSATION THE RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED IN THE REFTEL CON-
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CERNING THE PROPOSED VISIT WERE DISCUSSED. GOLDMAN, IN
TURN, PROVIDED A FULL DESCRIPTION OF HIS UNDERSTANDING
OF HOW THE MISSION WAS ARRANGED AND HIS ASSOCIATION WITH

IT. GOLDMAN PLEDGED HIS FULL COOPERATION AND HIS CONCERN
THAT HE NOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH AN EVENT THAT COULD IN
ANY WAY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO OUR JOINT EFFORT TO

IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES OF THE GOU.

2. AS BACKGROUND GOLDMAN STATED THAT THE MAJOR IMPETUS FOR THIS MISSION IS COMING FROM THREE SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS - INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF CATHOLIC JURISTS, MOVIMIENTO INTERNACIONAL DE JURISTAS DEMOCRATICAS, AND FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE DERECHOS DEL HOMBRE. REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE GROUPS CAME TO WASHINGTON AND MET

WITH WOLA. THERE THEY REPORTEDLY WERE ADVISED OF AN "UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN POLITICAL OFFICER YOULE AND JUAN FERREIRA, WORKED OUT DURING YOULE'S WASHINGTON CONSULTATION NOVEMBER 7-9, THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD ASSIST IN FACILITATING SUCH A HUMAN RIGHTS VISIT TO URUGUAY.

3. MR. GOLDMAN STATED FURTHER THAT HE TWICE TURNED DOWN AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VISIT WHEN APPROACHED. HE RECONSIDERED WHEN ADVISED BY WOLA OF THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CARTER AND MENDEZ IN WHICH THE INVITATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS TO VISIT URUGUAY WAS EXTENDED AND ACKNOWLEDGED. GOLDMAN STATED THAT HE LAID DOWN TWO CONDITIONS FOR HIS PARTICIPATION - THAT THE GOU BE INFORMED AND AGREE TO THE VISIT, AND THAT HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE IAHRC AS THE CONTRACTOR WHO DRAFTED THE URUGUAYAN HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT BE DIVORCED FROM THIS MISSION.
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4. GOLDMAN EXPRESSED SURPRISE WHEN ADVISED THAT THE RELEVANT EMBASSIES IN MONTEVIDEO WERE NOT AWARE OF THE PROPOSED VISIT. ASKED IF HE HAD A URUGUAYAN VISA, GOLDMAN REPLIED THAT JUAN FERREIRA HAS ASSURED HIM A VISA WAS NOT REQUIRED. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WAS CERTAIN THE GOU HAD BEEN ADVISED OF THE VISIT, HE REPLIED THAT HE WAS ASSURED IT HAD BEEN THROUGH THE URUGUAYAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. WHEN WE EXPRESSED STRONG DOUBTS THAT, IN FACT, THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF HIS VISIT, GOLDMAN AGREED THAT YOU BE AUTHORIZED TO INQUIRE DIRECTLY WITH APPROPRIATE GOU OFFICIALS IF AGREEMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN.

5. WE ADVISED MR. GOLDMAN THAT OUR INTENTION WAS NOT TO OPPOSE SUCH VISITS IN PRINCIPLE, BUT THAT IT WAS OUR CONSIDERED OPINION THAT HIS MISSION WOULD NOT BE SUCCESSFUL UNDER THE ARRANGEMENTS AS WE UNDERSTOOD THEM. IF THIS TRIP RESULTED IN CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOU IT WOULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE THE MENDEZ AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS VISITS. WE DID NOT MENTION THE PROPOSED ILHR MISSION. HE AGREED AND STATED THAT IT WAS

NOT HIS INTENTION TO SET BACK OUR EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO
EFFECT IMPROVEMENTS. HE LEFT THE MEETING STATING THAT
HE WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE
PROPOSED VISIT, IF IT HAD NOT BEEN ARRANGED AS HE HAD
BEEN LED TO BELIEVE. HE PROVIDED US WITH TELEPHONE
NUMBERS WHERE HE CAN BE CONTACTED UP UNTIL HIS SCHEDULED
DEPARTURE ON DECEMBER 10, AND ALSO AGREED TO MAKE HIS

FIRST POINT OF CONTACT BE A MEETING WITH YOU, SHOULD THE
TRIP PROCEED.

CHRISTOPHER

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